

REMARKSI. Rejection under 35 USC §102(b)

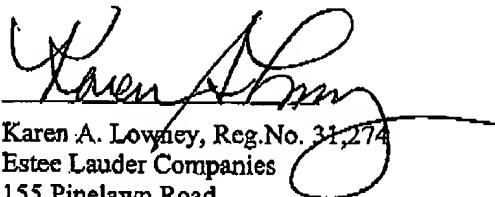
Claims 2-4, 11-13, 16, 19, 20 and 25 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Buchalter, US Patent No. 3,896,807. In response to Applicants' arguments in the amendment dated January 20, 2005, the Examiner has maintained the rejection against these claims. Claims 5-10, 21-24 and 26 had been objected to, but in the previous office action, had been indicated as allowable if rewritten as independent claims that incorporate the subject matter of the rejected claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants believe the Examiner's arguments with respect to Buchalter continue to be untenable. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicants have herein cancelled rejected claims, 2, 16, 19, 20 and 25, rewritten claims 5, 6, 21 and 26 as independent claims, and amended the remaining claims to depend from one of the allowable independent claims. All claims are therefore believed to now be allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims is requested. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the present claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that discussion will resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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